

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 05979 171047Z

ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0481

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LI

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

1. THE FOLLOWING CABINET CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED BY  
PRESIDENT TOLBERT AUGUST 15 AT AN 8-HOUR CABINET  
MEETING:

A. THE MINISTER OF ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND  
PROGRESS LEEVEE MOULTON WAS REPLACED BY AMOS SMITH;

B. THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINES AARON HOLMES  
WAS REPLACED BY CLETUS WORTERSON;

C. THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
DR. ABEODU JONES WAS REPLACED BY DR. KATE BRYANT;

D. DIRECTOR OF POLICE EDWIN HARMON WAS REPLACED  
BY VARNEY DEMPSTER. THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ALSO  
THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GENERAL SERVICES  
AUTHORITY, WILBERT CLARKE, IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR  
IRREGULARITIES IN THE PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES.

2. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT MINISTER MOULTON LOST  
HIS POSITION FOR LACK OF DYNAMISM AND FORCEFULNESS  
AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE YOUTH CAMP PRESENTLY  
UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN MONTERRADO COUNTY. MINISTER  
HOLMES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, WAS DISMISSED FOR  
THE SAME LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS AND DYNAMISM. MINISTER  
JONES LOST HER PORTFOLIO, THE PRESIDENT SAID, BECAUSE  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MONROV 05979 171047Z

OF A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HER AND HER DEPUTIES  
AND ASSISTANT MINISTERS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT DIRECTOR  
HARMON LOST HIS POST BECAUSE OF HIS DISREGARD FOR DUE  
PROCESS OF LAW AND INEFFICIENCY IN THE POLICE  
FORCE. HE STATED THAT HARMON HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO  
THE POLICE FORCE THAT IF A POLICE OFFICER WAS WOUNDED,  
ASSAULTED OR KILLED, THE POLICE MUST RETALIATE ON THE

SPOT. WHEN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAD MADE INQUIRIES INTO THIS MATTER, HARMON HAD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW HIS LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD MAINTAIN HIS POSITION.

3. DURING THE CABINET MEETING, TOLBERT DECLARED THAT PUNCTUALITY IS A HALLMARK OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARRIVING AT WORK 10 MINUTES AFTER 8 WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED. THE LIBERIAN AGE, AUGUST 15, IN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE MEETING, NOTED THAT MINISTER MOULTON HAD ARRIVED LATE FOR THE CABINET MEETING AND WAS NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE A SEAT IN THE CABINET. WHEN THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THE DISMISSAL OF MOULTON HE MENTIONED HIS LATENESS AS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HIS DISMISSAL.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER JONES' TERM AS HEALTH MINISTER HAS BEEN MARRED BY EXTREME DISHARMONY BETWEEN HER AND HER STAFF. SHE HAD FREQUENTLY BEEN A ROADBLOCK IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IMPORTANT USAID PROGRAM IN THE HEALTH FIELD. DR. BRYANT IS PRESIDENT OF THE LIBERIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY AND CHIEF OF PEDIATRICS AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY HOSPITAL. DR. BRYANT OBTAINED HER MD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA AND DID POST GRADUATE WORK IN ENGLAND AND AT THE MAKERERE UNIVERSITY  
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PAGE 03 MONROV 05979 171047Z

IN UGANDA. SHE IS FROM GRAND CAPE MOUNT COUNTY. DR. BRYANT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 25 THAT SHE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST SHE HAD IN HER CLINICAL PRACTICE. DR. BRYANT WENT TO THE U.S. IN 1977 AS A RECIPIENT OF A FELLOWSHIP FROM THE EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP INC. THE NEW MINISTER FOR ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS, AMOS SMITH, IS KNOWN AS AN EXCELLENT ENGINEER WITH A SHARP TONGUE. CLETUS WORTERSON IS AN EX-AID PARTICIPANT AND CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHLY COMPETENT BY AID OFFICIALS WHO HAVE WORKED WITH HIM. VARNEY DEMPSTER, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF POLICE, WAS FIRED AS DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY SERVICES IN DECEMBER 1977 OVER A DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING DEMPSTER'S PROPER FUNCTION. DEMPSTER SAW HIMSELF AS A MANAGER OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL SECURITY BUT NOT NECESSARILY PRESENT WHEREVER THE PRESIDENT WENT. HE WAS FIRED, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BULLETIN, DECEMBER 19, 1977, FOR FAILING "TO MOUNT THE REQUISITE SECURITY AND ACCOMPANY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE WEST POINT DISASTER AREA."

5. MORE COMPLETE BIOGRAPHIC DATA WILL FOLLOW.  
WALKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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